

### Use of Best Management Practices

Because of the diversity of Arizona's agricultural industry, rather than establishing a prescribed set of BMPs, the Department has established factors that must be considered when selecting the appropriate BMPs that best suit the situation given the site characteristics and proximity to water resources. The primary areas of concern, based on the history of monitoring in the pesticide program, are areas with shallow groundwater, near perennial surface waters and near domestic drinking water sources. The factors are as follows:

A. When assessing a site's susceptibility to impact by a pesticide, the person shall consider the characteristics of the application site including: soil texture, slope, organic matter of the soil and depth to groundwater. In choosing the proper BMPs, the person shall:

1. Select a pesticide based on the intended application site characteristics;
2. Minimize or avoid the use of any pesticide with high leaching or high runoff potential;
3. Incorporate erosion control practices to minimize runoff; and
4. If practical, use an alternative to pest control methods.

B. When considering the proper BMPs to protect water resources from contamination during mixing, loading and/or application, the person shall:

1. Apply the correct amount of pesticide according to the label and employ methods that avoid overspray or drift;
2. Consider weather patterns, soil moisture, and crop needs before pesticide application; and
3. Maintain buffer zones.

The Department is working with the Arizona Department of Agriculture to provide education and outreach to the affected stakeholders including the agricultural community (e.g., growers, pest control advisors and applicators) as well as the chemical industry and to develop the necessary tools to aid the regulated community in complying with this new requirement.